

## Louis Barthélemy



### *“The Wrestlers”*

**Opening: Thursday, September 8, 18.00 - 21.00**

**Exhibition Duration: September 8 – October 1, 2022**

Zoumboulakis Galleries inaugurates the new programming with the first solo exhibition of Louis Barthélemy in Greece, titled “The Wrestlers”. The exhibition will be presented firstly in Athens and later this year at the Musée Théodore Monod d’art africain in Dakar, Senegal.

The French designer and multidisciplinary artist Louis Barthélemy found himself in Dakar in 2020, just before the closing of the borders due to the pandemic restrictions. There, he witnessed the ancient ritual of fighting which has evolved to a sort of national sport. Seated on the sand and watching the games, Louis was enchanted by the wrestlers and their body movements, accompanied by a colorful choir of local women. He followed the training of one of the teams which he met personally. During his stay in Dakar, he browsed the local markets and acquired colorful bazins, waxed cotton brocades with the desire to rework them in Cairo together with the tent makers who work with the traditional Khayamiya tapestries. He wanted to create scenes of fighting on the fabric narrating thus the Dakar story. The fabrics and the threads became the unique means to portray the bodies in motion during the fight.

Having a profound knowledge of the fabrics used by the traditional handicrafts tent makers in Egypt, and inspired by different fabrics of various historical eras that were exhibited in African and Egyptian art Museums. Barthélemy was motivated by the experience of this old Senegalese sport, to create a fictional illustrated choreography which renders not solely the

 Zoumboulakis Galleries

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magic of the bodies but also the magic of the fabric. Abstract and full of colour, the bodies intertwined creating tapestries of exceptional beauty. These works become the means for the artist to point out the coexistence of diverse civilizations, but also give way to highlight the important work of specialised artisans who use and revitalize traditional techniques.

**Artist short bio:**

*Louis Barthélemy is a multidisciplinary artist and designer who lives and works between Marrakesh, Cairo and Paris. A crucial part of his practice is the preservation and the revival of traditional crafts threatened by globalization. He started his studies with a Bachelor in Central Saint Martins while at the same time he worked for Dior as print and textile designer. He graduated in 2012. He continued working for Salvatore Ferragamo and Gucci, however he gradually re-orientated his interest towards different directions which led him to Marrakesh and then to Cairo and to his collaboration with local artisans.*

**Exhibition Duration:** September 8 – October 1, 2022

Zoumboulakis Galleries, 20 Kolonaki Square

**Opening hours:** Tue., Thu. & Fri. 11.00 - 20.00

Wed. & Sat. 11.00 - 15.00

Sundays & Mondays closed

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